

Evening Telegraph

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1871.

THE EVENING TELEGRAPH, from its original establishment, has been in the receipt of telegraphic news from the New York Associated Press, which consists of the Tribune, Times, Herald, World, Sun, Journal of Commerce, Evening Post, Commercial Advertiser, and Evening Express. The success which has attended our enterprise is, in itself, a sufficient evidence of the freshness, fullness, and reliability of the news which we have received from this source.

The earliest regular edition of THE EVENING TELEGRAPH goes to press at 1 1/2 o'clock, and the subsequent regular editions at 2 1/2, 3 1/2, and 4 1/2. Whenever there is important news of the progress of the European war, extra editions will be issued after this hour, and before the regular time for the early edition.

THE COMMISSION SCHEME.

The originators of the scheme to revolutionize the government of Philadelphia by placing several of its most important departments under the absolute control of commissions, cherish such lively hopes of acquiring power and plunder that they are evidently determined to make desperate efforts to insure its indorsement by the Legislature. No pains will be spared to allay the fears of the public by holding out a delusive promise that good men only will be placed on the commissions, nor to secure the support of Representatives and Senators of both parties by promises that their friends shall be taken care of by the commissioners. To scheming modern partisans there is no such fat goose for plucking as a great city, and no plan for plucking cities, for heaping upon their tax-payers enormous burdens, and for extracting the very life-blood from honest and laborious men, can equal in cunning and practical success the commission system. Where the people are left free to act, either by their votes for Councilmen or for different officers, they can interpose obstacles to any extravagant or ill-judged scheme at every stage of its progress; but after their hands are tied by commissions, all protests and remonstrances are vain, and they are unconsciously plunged into expenditures amounting in the aggregate to millions of dollars, a large percentage of which finds its way into the pockets of scheming partisans, or serves to create a corruption fund out of which bands of loafers, repeaters, shodder-bitters, blackguards, blacklegs, thieves, and bummers are paid to carry delegate or general elections, and to bring ruin and reproach upon republican government. The condition of the commission-ridden city of New York proves that we have not overdrawn this picture. She has gone on from bad to worse until fraud and corruption taint her whole municipal government, and until a degree of rottenness pervades every department, from turret to foundation stone, which has never been equalled since Sodom was destroyed for her iniquities. What a Highway Department might become, in the hands of a corrupt commission, it is impossible to predict, but in New York it has been used as an engine for extorting millions of dollars from taxpayers, for which not a tithe of honest or useful service was ever rendered—the plundered money being divided between the big thieves who run the machine and the gangs of roughs and loafers who keep them in power. What a Water Commission might be made in the hands of sleek but unscrupulous men is indicated by the crazy projects that have been suggested from time to time for bringing water to the city from extremely distant points. They would involve the expenditure of many millions of dollars, and the long-continued employment of thousands of work men; and if the disbursement of such large sums and the employment of such large bodies of men are vested in a little knot of favorites of the Legislature, who can doubt that such power would be fearfully abused? As to a Tax Commission, they have one now in New York, and the press of that city teems with complaints of its gross injustice in fixing valuations upon the property of different citizens, its favorites being assessed for sums far below the proper amount, and all the rich men of the city having a rod held over them

by the perpetual threat that if they dare to lift a finger against the robbers of the ring they must pay a penalty in an increase of their tax-bills. As the Legislative scheme pending at Harrisburg would combine control over the Water, Highway, and Tax Departments, and probably other branches of the city government, in a batch of commissions created simultaneously, which would probably act in harmony—their aggregated power would well insure absolute control of the entire city. Even the protection furnished by Councils would be nearly if not entirely destroyed—for the commissions would exert an influence powerful enough to nominate and elect Councilmen devoted to their interests—and the people would be so nearly powerless—all their municipal elections would be such miserable and unmeaning farces—that there would be little hope for relief by any process short of a revolution, and an uprising that would purge the community forever of the whole race of would-be local tyrants.

STAFF RANK IN THE ARMY AND THE NAVY.

DURING the controversy that has been carried on with regard to the claims of the staff officers of the navy to positive rank, much has been said about the difference that exists between the positions of the staff of the navy and that of the army. The following extracts from the "Act to increase and fix the military establishment of the United States," approved July 26, 1866, will show how the law stands in the matter of staff rank in the army:—

"Section 17. And be it further enacted, That the medical department of the army shall hereafter consist of one surgeon-general, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a brigadier-general; one assistant surgeon-general, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a colonel of cavalry; one chief medical purveyor and five assistant medical purveyors, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of lieutenant-colonels of cavalry; sixty surgeons, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of majors of cavalry; one hundred and fifty assistant surgeons, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of lieutenants of cavalry, for the first three years service, and with the rank, pay, and emoluments of captains of cavalry after three years."

"Section 18. And be it further enacted, That the pay department of the army shall hereafter consist of one paymaster-general, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a brigadier-general; two assistant paymasters-general, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of lieutenant-colonels of cavalry; and sixty paymasters, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of majors of cavalry."

"Section 19. And be it further enacted, That the corps of engineers shall consist of one chief of engineers, with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a brigadier-general; six colonels, twelve lieutenant-colonels, twenty-four majors, thirty captains, and twenty-six first and ten second lieutenants, who shall have the pay and emoluments now provided by law for officers of the engineer corps."

General Sherman, when appealed to by Admiral Porter for his opinion concerning staff rank, said emphatically that the above mentioned arrangement worked well in the army. If it works well in the army it will also work well in the navy, for the naval staff officers ask nothing more nor less than the same rights and privileges that are enjoyed by their army brethren. The bill introduced by Mr. Stevens, of New Hampshire, which was passed some weeks ago in the House of Representatives by a large majority, places the staff officers of the navy upon precisely the same footing as those of the army, and if it becomes a law it will put an end to a disgraceful squabble and make it worth while for educated gentlemen to enter our naval service as surgeons, engineers, and paymasters. The Senate Naval Committee, however, at the promptings of a clique of arrogant line officers of which Admiral Porter is representative, have altered this bill so that if it passes in its present shape the staff officers of the navy will be practically in the same position as they are now, and will be at the mercy of their brethren of the line. It is obvious that the dimensions which now disturb the harmony of the navy and which greatly impair its efficiency cannot be remedied in this manner. The passage of the bill as reported by the Senate Naval Committee will have the effect of driving a large number of the staff officers from the service in disgust, of preventing educated gentlemen from entering any of the staff corps, and of indefinitely prolonging a contest that should have been closed definitively long ago. The staff officers of the navy would stultify themselves if they accepted this Senate bill as satisfactory, and it is the duty of the Senate not only to consider public sentiment in this matter, as expressed by nearly every journal from one end of the land to the other, but to do impartial justice to a deserving class of officers who are essential to the efficiency of the navy, and to put an end to a system that has brought anything but credit upon the navy.

The announcement of the safety of the United States steamer Tennessee and her arrival at San Domingo city will be received with feelings of congratulation throughout the country, especially as the anxiety hitherto excited with regard to her had begun to deepen into positive alarm. There do not appear to have been any real reasons for the excitement that has been created concerning the Tennessee, and the explanations given by the authorities at Washington as to the why and wherefore of the non-report of her safe arrival at her destination have been satisfactory. No measures were taken to have a report of her safety sent to the nearest telegraph station, and as the communication with San Domingo is infrequent and irregular, in the natural course of events news of her would be slow in coming. As it was, the intelligence of her safety was brought by a vessel which only touched at San Domingo incidentally, and it may be some days yet ere we hear anything of her through a regular channel of information. We are sincerely glad that all apprehensions with regard to the Tennessee and the passengers on board of her have been removed, and we are especially glad that a new man-of-war, which has been constructed at an immense expense to the country, has not proved herself to be unseaworthy under circumstances which would tend to increase the prejudices that already exist against the management of our naval affairs.

There is great reason to fear that the income tax will not be repealed at the present session of Congress unless a great pressure is brought to bear upon our Senators and Representatives. There is a majority in favor of the unconditional repeal of this tax in both branches of Congress, and the whole affair would have been settled weeks ago if the House and Senate had not got into a squabble over their respective rights and privileges. Now the near approach of the end of the session and the accumulation of work will stand in the way of bringing the bill repealing the tax to a vote. In this position of affairs, would it not be well for some of our leading capitalists and others to address to our representatives in Congress, or to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, a brief statement of the most important reasons why the income tax should be done away with without further delay? Such an address would not fail to receive the respectful attention of Congress, and it would be an important aid to those who are endeavoring to have the tax abolished.

OBITUARY.

General John B. Magruder. The ex-Confederate General John Bankhead Magruder died at Galveston, Texas, on Saturday. Born in Virginia, in 1810, he entered the Military Academy in 1826, and was brevetted a second lieutenant in the 7th Infantry in July, 1830. He was soon after transferred to the 1st Artillery; in December, 1835, was made assistant commissary of subsistence, first lieutenant in March, 1838, and a captain in June, 1840. He participated in the Mexican war, and was distinguished for his gallant conduct. In July, 1845, he was brevetted major for gallant and meritorious conduct in the battle of Cerro Gordo. He afterward commanded a light artillery battery in Filloy's division, and was brevetted a lieutenant-colonel for his conduct at the battle of Chapultepec, in which he was wounded.

At the outbreak of the Rebellion, in 1861, he was on duty at Washington, where there was for a time every confidence in his loyalty. He soon left his post, according to his own account, after duly notifying President Lincoln; it being asserted by others, however, that his departure was unannounced, and made after a solemn assurance that he would remain at his post and be faithful to the flag under which he had fought so long. He proceeded to Richmond, where he was at once made a major-general, and appointed to the command of the peninsula of Virginia. His campaign was unsuccessful, and he was sent South, remaining in command of Texas for several years, but without winning any considerable reputation as a soldier. Since the war he has been in reduced circumstances, and has devoted some time to lecturing and acting as an insurance agent.

Commodore Peter Turner. At 9 o'clock yesterday morning Commodore Peter Turner, United States Navy, died at the Naval Asylum in this city. He was born in Rhode Island, and obtained his first appointment in the navy March 4, 1833. He was a classmate of Admirals Davis and Thatcher and of Commodores Smith, Livingston, Swift, Watson, Totten, and Glisson. He saw his first service on board the sloop Cyane in 1837, while it was on the Brazil station. He became passed midshipman March 23, 1839, and lieutenant June 21, 1839. He was on the receiving ship Ohio at Boston in 1838 and 1834, and in 1837 was on the schooner Boxer in the Pacific. He was transferred to the frigate Constitution, then in the same waters, in 1840. In 1845 and 1846 he was with the frigate Haritan, off Brazil, and was afterwards on special duty at the Portsmouth Navy Yard until 1850. He finished his last cruise in 1853, when he was in command of the store ship Southampton. He became commander July 16, 1863. In 1863 he was ordered to the Naval Asylum as captain, where he remained until 1868. He then waited orders for one year, when he was again put in charge at the Asylum, where he remained until his death.

NOTICES.

OAK HALL CLOTHING. OAK HALL CLOTHING. OAK HALL CLOTHING. EVERYBODY LIKES IT. EVERYBODY LIKES IT. EVERYBODY LIKES IT. BECAUSE IT IS STYLISH. BECAUSE IT IS WELL-MADE. BECAUSE IT IS DURABLE. BECAUSE IT IS CHEAP. GREAT BARGAINS NOW AT WANAMAKER & BROWN'S OAK HALL, THE LARGEST CLOTHING HOUSE IN AMERICA, S. E. COR. SIXTH AND MARKET STS.

CHESNUT STREET SKATING RINK, TWENTY-THIRD AND CHESNUT. SPLENDID SKATING TO-DAY. ALL DAY AND EVENING. EXTRAORDINARY ANNOUNCEMENT. First appearance in Philadelphia, of CALLIE CURTIS, Of Chicago, Champion Skater of America, and holder of the Diamond Medal, and FRANK SWIFT, Of New York, ex-Champion of America, on MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY NEXT, Feb. 20, 21, and 22, at their 50 different exhibitions. LIBERTY SILVER CORNET BAND in attendance. Admission as usual. No postponement on account of changes in the weather. J. A. PAYNE & BRO.

OPTICIANS. SPECTACLES. MICROSCOPES, TELESCOPES, THERMOMETERS, MATHEMATICAL, SURVEYING, PHILOSOPHICAL AND DRAWING INSTRUMENTS. AT REDUCED PRICES. JAMES W. QUEEN & CO., 730 Market Street, Philadelphia. MACHINERY. SHEARING, ROLLING AND MEASURING. Pulling, Napping and Brushing Machines for Carpets, Cloths, and Prints. Shear both sides at once, measure accurately, roll the goods to retain length, width, and finish. Blades repaired and ground. Superior Loom Temples. GEO. C. HOWARD, No. 17 S. EIGHTEENTH Street, Phila., Pa.

COAL. SNOWDON & RAU'S COAL DEPOT, CORNER S DILLWINE and WILLOW Streets.—Lehigh and Schuylkill COAL, prepared expressly for family use at the lowest cash prices. 113 AMERIGUS, THE WONDERFUL CHILD Violinist, will appear in the Star Concerts, at CONCERT HALL, commencing MONDAY, February 27. Admission, 50 cents; Secured Seats, 75 cents. Sale commences Thursday next, 2 20/1

SEWING MACHINES. THE WHEELER & WILSON SEWING MACHINE. For Sale on Easy Terms. NO. 914 CHESNUT STREET. PHILADELPHIA.

CLOTHING. OFF! OFF WITH IT! Off at any Price! For very soon we must make room for our splendid Spring Stock! Great Brown Hall. While there is yet a chance for Winter Bargains, Come and get them! Now is your opportunity! CHEAP! CHEAPER! CHEAPEST! AT ROCKHILL & WILSON'S, 603 and 605 CHESNUT STREET.

HABILLEMENTS No. 324 CHESTNUT ST. CHARLES STOKES & CO. UNDER THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL PHILADELPHIA, PA. HAVE ALWAYS ON HAND TO SUBMIT FOR THE SELECTION OF THEIR CUSTOMERS A LARGE AND VARIED STOCK OF THE MOST FASHIONABLE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN FABRICS.

NEW PUBLICATIONS. SEE WESTERN WORLD. WESTERN Another WORLD WESTERN Great Story WORLD WESTERN in WORLD WESTERN this week's WORLD WESTERN WESTERN WORLD WESTERN WESTERN WORLD WESTERN "After WORLD WESTERN the WORLD WESTERN Wedding" WORLD WESTERN Theodore Arnold. WORLD WESTERN Is the best WORLD WESTERN Serial Story WORLD WESTERN ever issued. WORLD WESTERN See the WORLD WESTERN WORLD, WORLD WESTERN dated March 4. WORLD WESTERN Now for sale WORLD WESTERN by all WORLD WESTERN Newsdealers WORLD WESTERN at WORLD WESTERN Six Cents. WORLD

MEN OF MARK.—THE PHRENOLOGICAL Journal for March contains Noah Webster, De Witt Taft, the late General Prim, the new King of Spain, with portraits, characters and biographies. Also, Japan—its Present Condition; Punishing Criminals; The Servant Question; Choice of Pursuits, or What Can I Do Best? The Food Supply of Europe and America; Brain Waves—A New Theory. 50 cents, or \$3 a year; six months \$1.50. Address S. H. WELLS, No. 339 BROADWAY, New York, or JOHN L. CAPEN, 52 N. NINTH Street, Philadelphia. 2 20/1

CARRIAGES. ESTABLISHED 1853. JOSEPH BECKHAUS, No. 1204 FRANKFORD Avenue, ABOVE GIRARD AVENUE. Manufacturer of exclusively FIRST-CLASS CARRIAGES. NEWEST STYLES. Clearances, Landaus, Landausettes, Close Coaches, Shifting or Coaches, Coupes, Barouches, Funtions, Rickshaws, Etc. SUITABLE FOR PRIVATE FAMILY and PUBLIC USE. Workmanship and finish second to none in the country. Five and varied stock on hand—completed and in the works. Orders receive prompt and personal attention. All work warranted. 12 21/1 3rp

MARBLE WORKS. H. S. TARR & SON'S MANUFACTORY OF Carved and Ornamental Marble Work. GREEN Street, above Seventh, 1 30/2m PHILADELPHIA.

MILLIKEN'S LINEN STORES, 1128 CHESNUT Street and 828 ARCH Street. FURNITURE COVERINGS.

Plain Linen Coverings, different Shades. Striped Linen Jacquard Coverings. New Striped Cotton Twills. French Cretonnes, Chintzes, Etc. Furniture Covers made to order in very superior style, at short notice.

GREAT BARGAINS IN NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAINS.

WATCHES, JEWELRY, ETC. THE NEW YORK WATCH COMPANY'S WATCHES. (Factory, Springfield, Mass.) In presenting their Watches to the American public, we do so with the knowledge that in point of finish and time-keeping qualities they are superior for the price to any Watch made in this country. For sale by

ALEX. R. HARPER, Successor to John M. Harper, No. 308 CHESNUT STREET, SECOND STORY, (2 2 ramp) Salesroom of the American Watch.

Established in 1854. WATCHES. EVERGOING STEM-WINDERS, KEY-WINDERS, QUARTER SECONDS, MINUTE REPEATERS, ETC. ETC. ETC. C. & A. PEQUIGNOT, 608 CHESNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

HENRY HARPER & CO., No. 530 ARCH Street, ARE SELLING AT COST, PREVIOUS TO REMOVING TO NO. 122 CHESNUT STREET, FINE WATCHES, OPERA AND LEONTINE CHAINS, DIAMOND RINGS, JEWELRY, FANCY SILVERWARE, AND SILVER-PLATED WARE.

CHINA, GLASSWARE, ETC. \$200,000 WORTH OF CHINA, GLASS AND EARTHENWARE TO BE CLOSED OUT, REGARDLESS OF COST. Gay's China Palace, No. 1012 CHESNUT STREET.

Are obliged to close out their immense stock, in consequence of the building they occupy having been sold. The entire stock must be closed out by the 1st of April, as they are obliged to vacate the premises by that time. Below we quote prices of a few leading staple goods. Fancy goods are at a still greater discount from former prices. White French China Dining Sets, 121 pieces... \$13-00 White French China Tea Sets, 44 pieces... 5-75 White French China Tea Sets, 46 pieces... 6-75 Stone China Dining Sets, 98 pieces... 7-25 Stone China Tea Sets (cups with handles) 44 ps 2-50 Stone China Tea Sets (cups with handles) 46 ps 3-50 Stone China Cups and Saucers, per set 12 pieces 50 Stone China Dining Plates, per dozen... 60 Bohemian Cologne Sets, 2 Bottles and Perf Box Bohemian Liqueur Sets, 6 Glasses, Water and Bottle... 90 An endless variety of Fancy Goods, at an immense reduction from former prices. Goods to go out of the city will be packed and delivered to transportation office free of charge, and insured against breakage to destination. SHOW ROOMS OPEN TILL 9 O'CLOCK AT NIGHT. STORE FIXTURES FOR SALE. 2 13/10t

DRY GOODS. EYRE AND LANDELL, ARCH STREET. 1871 EARLY SPRING. 1871

NEW SILKS. NEW SHAWLS. NEW PIQUETS. NEW CHINTZES. MALT LIQUORS. PHILADELPHIA AGENCY. Abbey & Holyrood Breweries. Wm. Younger & Co., Edinburgh. ESTABLISHED 1749. We are now prepared to fill orders from the trade for Bottled Ale and Porter From the above celebrated Breweries. POWELL & WEST, No. 28 South FRONT Street. Sole Agents for W. Younger & Co. An invoice now landing ex-ship Amundson from Liverpool. 2 9 mwtstmp

FINANCIAL. EXCHANGE ON PARIS.

Drexel, Harjes & Co. having remained in Paris during the siege, communication being reopened, we are prepared at once to draw on them in amounts to suit, either sight or sixty days, payable in gold. DREXEL & CO., No. 34 SOUTH THIRD STREET, 2 15/6t PHILADELPHIA.

DREXEL & CO., No. 34 SOUTH THIRD STREET, American and Foreign Bankers, DRAWS EXCHANGE ON LONDON AND PRINCIPAL CITIES OF EUROPE. DEALERS IN Government and Railroad Securities, Drexel, Winthrop & Co., Drexel, Harjes & Co., No. 15 Wall Street, No. 3 Rue Scribe, Paris.

PIANOS. Steinway & Sons' Grand Square and Upright Pianos. Special attention is called to their new Patent Upright Pianos, With Double Iron Frame, Patent Resonator, Tubular Metal Frame Action, etc., which are matchless in Tone and Touch, and unrivaled in durability. CHARLES BLASIUS, WAREHOUSES, No. 1006 CHESNUT STREET, 2 13/10t PHILADELPHIA.

PIANOS AND ORGANS. MASON AND HAMLIN'S CABINET ORGANS. GOULD & FISCHER, No. 522 CHESNUT STREET, J. E. GOULD, No. 1015 ARCH Street, W. M. G. FISCHER, 1 17/10t

ALBRECHT, RIEKES & SCHMIDT, Manufacturers of Grand and Square Piano Fortes, recommend their stock of first-class instruments. Every instrument is warranted and prices moderate. 3 4/1 WAREHOOM, No. 610 ARCH Street. HOLIDAY GOODS.

HOLIDAY GOODS. Spring Horses, Rocking Horses, Children's Carriages, BOYS' SLEDS, WAGONS, VELOCIPEDS, Etc. Etc. H. J. SHILL, Factory, No. 226 DOCK Street, 13 9/4t BELOW EXCHANGE.

LOST. NOTICE.—APPLICATION HAS BEEN made to the ST. NICHOLAS OIL COMPANY for the renewal of the following lost certificates of stock in said company, viz.:—Certificate No. 1545, for 500 shares, and Certificates Nos. 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, and 1550, each for 100 shares. All in the name of the undersigned, and dated April 30, 1866. WILLIAM P. JOHNSON. COTTON—MIDDLING FAIR AND MIDDLING Guine, Alabama and Uplands, samples, clean stain, etc., for sale by WILLIAM M. GREINER, No. 109 CHESNUT Street, 1 30/2m